

## Indiana Milken Educators Network

*Fall Meeting*

September 11, 2004

Location: PEN Products

**Our Mission:** The mission of the Indiana Milken Educator Network is to celebrate, support, retain and advance quality educators and to advocate for the children of Indiana.

*Present:*

Indiana Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Suellen Reed

*Indiana Department of Education Liaison:* Cathy Danyluk

*Indiana Milken Educators:* Mark Weaver, Theresa Knipstein-Myer, Jan Weir, Alicia Harris, Mi Sang Han, John Frichie, Sarah Powley, Matt Walsh.

*Indiana Teachers of the Year:* Kim Giesting, Tony Willis, Katherine Stahl, Mike Kaiser, Robert Pickett.

Dr. Reed's Teacher Advisory group is made up of current and former Indiana Teacher's of the Year and current and former Indiana Milken Educators. A large emphasis of Dr. Reed's work involves the Indiana P-16 Plan. The Plan includes academic standards, curriculum, assessments and accountability.



Another focus of Dr. Reed's involves teaching and learning and ensuring that ALL kids are provided opportunities to learn. We need more teacher leaders to take over some of the work so that more time can be spent with the kids who really need our attention. She believes in early childhood education and that we need to continue to encourage kids to make good choices in terms of planning for the future. We need to use whatever resources that we have to the best possible use. We need to work on improving communication among all of the stakeholders in education: parents, politicians, teachers, students, business people, etc.

Sarah discussed the continued work with *The Children of Willesden Lane* and how it is being used in more and more educational systems. In some communities, both inside and outside the state, they are using this book as their "one book, one read" novel.

Dr. Reed discussed several meetings that she has had recently with high school students. The kids clearly internalize the importance of their teachers "having passion" for what they do. She reiterated the importance of having teachers in our schools who care, teachers who want to stay before and after school to help kids and teachers who want to go above and beyond to help kids succeed. Attracting and retraining excellent teachers is an important focus for our kids' futures.

John Frichie raised the concern about accreditation and kids taking math classes (algebra and geometry) in middle school - how will this impact the number of math credits as part

of the P-16 plan and the diplomas.

Jan Weir raised the concern that we need to do a better job in the communication between the post-secondary options (colleges or work force) and what's going on in high schools (in terms of level of difficulty, work ethic, personal accountability for learning) so that we can better prepare our high school kids for what comes after.

Bob shared this wonderful quote: "The job of a teacher is to prepare the child for the path not the path for the child."

Next *Indiana Teacher's Advisory Council* Meeting: Thursday, December 2, 2004 followed by the Milken Educator's Reception in the Rotunda (12 NOON to 3 PM)



Mark Weaver's number at DOE: 232-9102.

All of us are encouraged to speak to our state legislators to invite them into our schools - be sure you let your principal know and have the experience for the legislator be positive and non-threatening.

Mark shared his experience in Washington in terms of working with the legislators and sharing our positive experiences with people who are in the decision-making process. Each teacher today received the *NCLB A Toolkit for Teachers* (updated 2004)

We had a tour of PEN Products prior to lunch. As usual, we had a tasty boxed lunch from IndyAnnas (courtesy of the DOE).



After lunch, Sarah updated us on the work that the Milken Foundation has been doing with *The Children of Willesden Lane*. The book is being used by more and more educators in their classrooms - this book is an excellent book especially for thematic units involving literature and the fine arts. The CD and the study guide are terrific resources for teachers. This information is also available as downloadable information from the MFF website. The study guide is not prescriptive - instead, it helps teachers to gain perspective about the Holocaust and the music and how these ideas can be woven into the curriculum. The MFF is also working with different schools who may not be able to afford the books to help get them gifted. Jae Smith (Massachusetts) also has a tremendous amount of material to also support this book in terms of curriculum materials.

The IMEN brochure is just about completed - we should have it by this December.

Some of the IMEN group have moved on to other projects: Dan Durbin has moved to a school in South Carolina and Rex Bolinger has moved to Princeton, New Jersey to work with the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Matt Walsh gave us an update on the Milken Conference from this past spring. He created a powerpoint that he used in his classes to describe his experiences in Washington, D.C.



Goal setting: Theresa has a concern about what we are going to do with the direction of our group. She doesn't want our time to be "wasted" and that perhaps we could continue with working as "advocates of education" as our goal. Discussion occurred as to whether we want it to remain the same or do we want to make any changes.

*Future IMEN meetings:*

SPRING: Saturday, February 26, 2005 @ Children's Museum

FALL: Saturday, August 27, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Carroll Weir